



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District asks public to not burn wood to reduce air pollution *Wood burning strongly discouraged but not illegal*

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is asking Bay Area residents to not burn wood in their fireplaces or woodstoves tonight and on Thanksgiving Day to prevent air quality from becoming unhealthy.

Stagnant weather conditions in and around the Bay Area are trapping wood smoke and fine particulate pollution close to the ground, degrading air quality in the region.

“We are asking residents in the Bay Area to help keep air pollution low this Thanksgiving by doing one significant thing – not burning wood indoors or outdoors,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “If Bay Area residents forego their fire this Thanksgiving, it will help all of us all enjoy a healthier, happier holiday weekend.”

A Winter Spare the Air Alert is NOT in effect and wood burning is not illegal. However, wood burning is strongly discouraged at this time.

Like cigarette smoke, wood smoke contains fine particles and carcinogenic substances that make the air unhealthy to breathe. Wood smoke is the major source of air pollution in the Bay Area in the wintertime and is especially harmful to children, the elderly and people with respiratory conditions.

Bay Area residents can find out if a Winter Spare the Air Alert is in effect by:

- **NEW text alerts! To sign up, text the word “START” to the number 817-57**
- Calling 1-877-4NO-BURN
- Visiting www.sparetheair.org or www.baaqmd.gov
- Signing up for automatic e-mail AirAlerts at www.sparetheair.org
- Signing up for automatic phone alerts by calling 1-800-430-1515
- Downloading the Spare the Air iPhone and Android apps.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area region. For more information about Spare the Air, visit www.sparetheair.org.

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